

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7318
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2244

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, MASS, CD
SUBJ: COMMENTS ON PRESS CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENT MALLOUM

1. YESTERDAY'S LOCAL PRESS CARRIED PUBLISHED
VERSION OF EARLIER RADIO INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PRESIDENT
MALLOUM. OF PARTICULAR NOLE AND CONCERN IN THE INTERVIEW
WAS ONE STATEMENT WHICH SAID THAT IN RESPONSE TO
CHAD'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, QUOTE CERTAIN
COUNTRIES CONSIDERED AS OUR FRIENDS HAD FOUND MALICIOUS
PLEASURE IN CHOOSING THIS CRITICAL MOMENT TO PROPOSE TO
UM SENDING TO CHAD TEAMS TO DISCUSS CULTURAL EXCHANGES,
BASED ON THE IDEOLOGY OF THFUR COUNTRIES UNQUOTE.

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2. KNOWING THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN
NOT RECEIVING U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE, I WAS CONCERNED
THAT HE MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETING OUR BUSINESS AS USUAL
ATTITUDE, WHICH INVOLVED CULTURAL EXCHANGES, AMONG
OTHER ITEMS. ACCORDINGLY, I CALLED ON VICE PRESIDENT
DJIME MORNING OF JUNE 9 AND ASKED HIM WHETHER PRESIDENT
MALLOUM HAD POSSIBLY HAD THE U.S. IN MIND AS I COUNTRY

WHICH HAD TAKEN MALICIOUS MEASURE IN TURNING CHAD'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE INTO OTHER CHANNELS. HE ASSERTED ME THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED THE SHOW OF FAITH IN HIS GOVERNMENT THAT OUR BUSINESS AS NORMAL APPROACH REFLECTED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT WE HAD NEVER TAKEN THE LINE THAT ALL THE OTHER THINGS WE WERE DOING FOR CHAD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS REPLACEMENTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. VICE PRESIDENT SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD NOT TALKED TO MALLOUM ABOUT THE PARTICULAR QUOTATION, HE WAS SURE THAT IT WAS THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WHICH WERE THE TARGET. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND EAST GERMANY HAD BOTH USED THE REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INTRODUCE OTHER SUGGESTIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT THEM TO PROPAGATE THEIR OWN IDEOLOGY.

3. VICE PRESIDENT THEN WENT ON AT LENGTH TO AGAIN DISCUSS THE SOVIET THREAT TO AFRICA, AND SUGGESTED THAT QADHAFI'S NEW HARD LINE ON CHAD HAD BEEN TAKEN UPON SOVIET INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDER TO KEEP DISTURBANCES GOING IN AFRICA AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL QUELLING OF THE SHABA INVASION BY THE WEST.

4. VICE PRESIDENT CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT
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MALLOUM AND HE HAD HOPED FOR QUICKER ACTION ON OUR PART, BUT BOTH RECOGNIZED OUR FAILURE WAS NOT QUESTION OF INTENTION, BUT OF LAW. HE ADDED THAT WHILE CHAD DID NOT LIKE THE RESULT, IT RESPECTED OUR ABIDING BY OUR LAWS. VICE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD PRESIDENT CARTER WAS CONSIDERING ASKING FOR SOME CHANGES IN THE LAWS REGARDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND HE HOPED SUCH CHANGES MIGHT RESULT IN AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR CHAD. I DAIS WE DID NOT WANT TO RAISE ANY FALSE HOPES ON THIS ISSUE, BUT AGREED TO KEEP HIM INFORMED IF THERE WERE ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS. BRADFORD

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